

REMARKS:

Claims 2-11 are in the case and presented for consideration.

Claim 1 has been cancelled and the newly presented claims have been drafted to conform to the specification as filed and to satisfy all formal requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112.

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,876,724 to Suzuki.

The claims have been drafted to highlight the features of the invention which make it particularly suited to a wearer who has a hearing impairment and who, thus, benefits from the enhanced vibrations of the speakers which are strategically located both on the chest and on the back and are adapted to transmit vibration to the user. In Suzuki, no speakers are provided on the back and any transmission of vibration is entirely incidental since there is no taught or suggested desire to transmit vibration to the wearer in Suzuki. Some of the independent claims such as claim 7 and its dependent claims further emphasize this fact by specifically calling for the mounting of the speakers in the vest linings as supported, for example, on sheet 3 of the drawings for the front speakers, and sheet 6 of the drawings for the rear speaker. This is structurally different from Suzuki which only teaches placing the speakers in pockets of the jacket in Suzuki.

Other features of the invention as claimed also emphasize the usefulness of the invention for the hearing impaired such as claim 3 which includes the remote control feature and even in the independent claim 2 which includes a reflector on the vest which is important for the hearing impaired who may not hear an oncoming source of danger.

The use of receivers on the collar (independent claim 2) as well as a transmitter (e.g. claims 10 and 11) also enhance the usefulness of the invention for the hearing

impaired as does the inclusion of a hood with an incorporated headphone (e.g. claim 8).

None of these features are disclosed in Suzuki so that the claims are believed to be patentable over Suzuki.

The inventor is herself hearing impaired and has a unique perspective on this technology and the technology is believed worthy of patent protection.

Accordingly, the application and claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and favorable action is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added and if any issues remain which may be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the number below, to advance this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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